HAROLD WEISBERG

ROUTE 12 - OLD RECEIVER ROAD

FREDERICK, MARYLAND 21701

3/5/87

DEAR HAROLD,

CONSIDERING THE HARSHNESS OF YOUR LETTER, THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE MUCH I CAN WRITE TO CONVINCE YOU THAT THERE WAS NO MALICE INTENDED ON MY PART... BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO IGNORE YOUR STATEMENTS WITHOUT GIVING IT ONE MORE TRY.

FIRST, YOUR LAST COMMENT MUST BE ADDRESSED — "AND I AM ASHAMED OF YOU, THAT YOU WOULD GIVE SUCH STUFF ANY SERIOUS THOUGHT AND HAVE NO BETTER OPINION OF ME"

THE SIMPLE POINT IS — I NEVER NEVER EVER TOOK "SUCH STUFF" SERIOUSLY. IF I HAD, I WOULD HAVE CALLED YOU DIRECTLY 13 YEARS AGO. PLEASE BELIEVE THAT.

ALSO NEWCOMB TORE LOTS OF PEOPLE APART... GARRISON, PENN JONES, ... EVEN LIFTON. I DIDN'T CONCERN MYSELF WITH HIS EVALUATIONS OF CRITICS. I WAS INTERESTED IN HIS RESEARCH, NOT HIS VALUE JUDGMENTS OF PEOPLE. THE ABOVE IS WHAT I MEANT ABOUT A "NEWCOMB - WEISBERG FEUD." AS YOU WROTE, "IT IS NEWS TO ME." WELL THAT'S POINT #2. SINCE YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT HIS CRITICISMS, THAT MEANS THERE WAS NO OPEN FEUD OR CONFRONTATION BETWEEN YOU TWO, BUT IT DOES MEAN HE WAS DOING A BACK STABBING JOB ON YOU WITHOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE.

THIS ISSUE WAS A CONCERN OF RITA'S, NOT MINE. IT ONLY CAME UP IN PASSING. MY REFERENCE TO "NOT CARING LESS" ABOUT IT WAS NOT RUDELY INTENDED,

I SIMPLY MEANT THAT I WASN'T CONCERNED WITH IT. IT WAS NONE OF MY BUSINESS AND IT WAS MINOR TO ME, BUT RITA WANTED TO LET YOU SEE IT. SHE WAS CONCERNED BY IT. SHE ASKED ME IF SHE COULD RUN IT BY YOU. I WASN'T TRYING TO CAUSE YOU OR RITA ANY PAIN. I JUST GAVE THE TWO OF YOU A CHANCE TO DISCUSS IT, CLARIFY IT, WHATEVER. I CERTAINLY WASN'T DOING ANYTHING UNDERHANDED OR BEHIND YOUR BACK. (NEWCOMB'S COMMENTS ARE, BUT NOT MINE). I KNEW RITA WAS GOING TO ASK YOU ABOUT IT. IF I HAD THOUGHT, FOR ONE SECOND, THAT YOU WOULD REACT AS YOU HAVE, I WOULD NEVER HAVE ALLOWED IT TO HAVE OCCURRED.

NEITHER THIS LETTER, NOR MY LAST ONE IS DEEMED BY ME TO BE "SELF-JUSTIFICATION," BUT MERELY AN INNOCENT AND HONEST EXPLANATION. YOUR CALLING ME IMMATURE AND QUESTIONING MY TEACHING KIDS AND MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD ARE UNNECESSARILY SPITEFUL AND UNJUSTIFIED.

AS FAR AS MY OPINION OF YOU, I WILL REITERATE. I CONSIDER YOU ONE OF MY HEROES AND OUTSIDE MY LATE FATHER AND JFK, I CAN'T THINK OF TOO MANY OTHERS. I'M SORRY YOU'RE MAD. YOUR CRITICISMS HURT A LOT, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY'RE INACCURATE OR UNFOUNDED. ALSO ONLY RITA SAW THAT LETTER AND ONLY BECAUSE YOU AND I BOTH TRUST HER. TRUST ME, HAL, I'M YOUR FRIEND.

Ed Tatro

P.S. CHICAGO'S ZAM MAGAZINE PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE OF MINE. I'M NOT WHAT YOU SAID,

P.S. I DO HAVE SOME SERIOUS ISSUES I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU — OSWALD'S MILITARY INTELLIGENCE FILE, OSWALD'S POST OFFICE APPLICATION DISCREPANCIES, OSWALD / MONTEREY SCHOOL OF THE ARMY ALLEGED LINK, THE JOHANN RUSH — HENRY HURT FEUD (AND "FEUD" IS THE RIGHT WORD) ETC.

I DIDN'T DO SO DIRECTLY IN DEFERENCE TO YOUR HEALTH. NOW IF WE CAN PUT THIS BEHIND US, I'D APPRECIATE IT. IF NOT, THEN I'VE DONE MY BEST TO CLEAR IT UP AND CAN DO NO MORE,

E. T.